

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO**

Gurvinder SINGH,

Petitioner,

v.

Kristi NOEM, Secretary, U.S. Department of
Homeland Security; Pamela BONDI, U.S.
Attorney General; WARDEN of Otero County
Processing Center; Todd LYONS, Acting
Director, Immigration and Customs
Enforcement and Removal Operations; Mary
De ANDA-YBARRA, Regional Director, Field
Office Director of Enforcement and Removal
Operations, Immigration and Customs
Enforcement;

Respondents.

Case No.

**AMENDED PETITION FOR WRIT OF
HABEAS CORPUS**

INTRODUCTION

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2 1. Since at least the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) of 1952,
3 noncitizens who entered the country illegally could generally be released on bond while their
4 removal proceedings were pending. Yet earlier this year, U.S. Immigration and Customs
5 Enforcement (ICE) “revisited” its position and determined that all noncitizens who are present
6 without admission are subject to mandatory detention while in removal proceedings. The Board of
7 Immigration Appeals (BIA) recently reached the same conclusion in a precedential decision,
8 *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (BIA 2025), holding for the first time that all
9 noncitizens who entered the country without admission are categorically ineligible for bond
10 regardless of how long they have lived in the United States.

11 2. Federal judges have issued over 350 decisions finding the government’s novel
12 interpretation incompatible with the INA. *See Endnote i & ii*. The provision on which the
13 government relies states that noncitizens who are “seeking admission” are subject to mandatory
14 detention while in removal proceedings. 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A). Congress defined “admission”
15 as “the lawful entry of the alien into the United States after inspection and authorization by an
16 immigration officer.” 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(13)(A). Thus, by its plain terms, the provision only
17 applies to noncitizens who present themselves at a port of entry. And in addition to disregarding
18 the plain text of § 1225(b)(2)(A), the government’s contrary interpretation renders superfluous
19 other provisions of the INA that require the mandatory detention of noncitizens who have engaged
20 in criminal activity—including a provision, § 1226(c)(1)(E), enacted this year in the Laken Riley
21 Act.

22 3. The government’s argument also flouts the Justice Department’s own regulations.
23 Since 1997, the Justice Department has precluded immigration judges from granting bond to so-
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1 called “arriving aliens”—*i.e.*, those who seek admission at a port of entry—but not to those who
2 entered the country without inspection. This distinction was the result of a deliberate choice made
3 by the Attorney General following the passage of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant
4 Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), Pub. L. 104-208, Div. C, 110 Stat. 3009-546. And under
5 bedrock principles of administrative law, agencies cannot “overrule” by adjudication regulations
6 that were promulgated after notice and comment. *Patel v. INS*, 638 F.2d 1199, 1202 (9th Cir. 1980).

7 4. As a result of the government’s new interpretation, every noncitizen who entered
8 the country without being admitted is subject to mandatory detention for the duration of their
9 removal proceedings. One of those noncitizens is Gurvinder Singh, who has resided in the United
10 States since 2018. After entering the United States without inspection, he was released on a bond
11 by ICE. He has since had work authorization and worked as a truck driver. Indeed, he was detained
12 by ICE while driving his truck from Texas to California he was stopped and detained by ICE.
13 Petitioner does not have any criminal history. Absent this Court’s intervention, he will remain
14 detained for the duration of his removal proceedings.

15 JURISDICTION

16 5. Petitioner is in the physical custody of Respondents. Petitioner is detained at the
17 Otero County Processing Center in Chaparral, New Mexico.

18 6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(5) (habeas
19 corpus), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and Article I, Section 9, Clause 2 of the United States
20 Constitution (the Suspension Clause).

21 7. This Court may grant relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, the Declaratory Judgment
22 Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 *et seq.*, and the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651.

1 8. The “zipper clause” at 8 U.S.C. § 1252(b)(9), which channels “[j]udicial review of
2 all questions of law . . . including interpretation and application of constitutional and statutory
3 provisions, arising from any action taken . . . to remove an alien from the United States” to the
4 appropriate federal court of appeals, does not apply because that section applies only to review of
5 removal orders, and Petitioner does not seek review of orders of removal but of custody.
6 *Maldonado Bautista et al. v. Santacruz, et al.*, No. 5:25-cv-01873-SSS-BFM (C.D. Cal. July 28,
7 2025), Order Granting Temporary Restraining Order, Dkt. 14 at 4-5.

8 9. The bar to review at 8 U.S.C. § 1252(g) strips all courts of jurisdiction to hear “any
9 cause or claim by or on behalf of any alien arising from the decision or action by the Attorney
10 General to commence proceedings, adjudicate cases, or execute removal orders against any alien
11 under this chapter.” The Supreme Court previously characterized § 1252(g) as a narrow provision,
12 applying “only to three discrete actions that the Attorney General may take: her ‘decision or action’
13 to ‘commence proceedings, *adjudicate* cases, or *execute* removal orders.’” *Reno v. Am.-Arab Anti-*
14 *Discrimination Comm.*, 525 U.S. 471, 482 (1999) (emphasis in original). In doing so, the Supreme
15 Court found it “implausible that the mention of *three discrete events* along the road to deportation
16 was a shorthand way to referring to *all claims arising from* deportation proceedings.” *Id.* (emphasis
17 added). Petitioner’s challenge to his detention does not fall within these discrete actions.
18 *Maldonado Bautista et al. v. Santacruz, et al.*, No. 5:25-cv-01873-SSS-BFM (C.D. Cal. July 28,
19 2025), Order Granting Temporary Restraining Order, Dkt. 14 at 5.

20 10. Subsection 2 of 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a), titled “Judicial Review of Orders of Removal,”
21 contains four subsections, which outline categories of claims that are not subject to judicial review.
22 § 1252(a)(2)(A)–(D). None of these subsections precluding judicial review apply to this matter, as
23 the specified statutory provisions do not cite § 1225(b)(2)(A) or § 1226(a), which are the two
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1 provisions Petitioner challenges. Thus, no part of § 1252 deprives this Court of jurisdiction.
2 *Maldonado Bautista et al. v. Santacruz, et al.*, No. 5:25-cv-01873-SSS-BFM (C.D. Calif. July 28,
3 2025), Order Granting Temporary Restraining Order, Dkt. 14 at 6. As such, the Court has
4 jurisdiction over Petitioner’s challenge to his detention.

5 VENUE

6 11. Pursuant to *Braden v. 30th Judicial Circuit Court of Kentucky*, 410 U.S. 484, 493-
7 500 (1973), venue lies in the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico, the
8 judicial district in which Petitioner currently is detained.

9 12. Venue is also properly in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because
10 Respondents are employees, officers, and agencies of the United States, and because a substantial
11 part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the District of New Mexico.

12 REQUIREMENTS OF 28 U.S.C. § 2243

13 13. The Court must grant the petition for writ of habeas corpus or order Respondents
14 to show cause “forthwith,” unless the petitioner is not entitled to relief. 28 U.S.C. § 2243. If an
15 order to show cause is issued, the Respondents must file a return “within three days unless for
16 good cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed.” *Id.*

17 14. Habeas corpus is “perhaps the most important writ known to the constitutional
18 law . . . affording as it does a *swift* and imperative remedy in all cases of illegal restraint or
19 confinement.” *Fay v. Noia*, 372 U.S. 391, 400 (1963) (emphasis added). “The application for the
20 writ usurps the attention and displaces the calendar of the judge or justice who entertains it and
21 receives prompt action from him within the four corners of the application.” *Yong v. I.N.S.*, 208
22 F.3d 1116, 1120 (9th Cir. 2000) (citation omitted).

23 PARTIES

1 15. Petitioner Gurvinder SINGH first entered the United States in 2018 and has
2 maintained residence here since that time. ICE has charged Petitioner with removability under 8
3 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) as an alien in the United States without being admitted or paroled. He
4 is presently detained at the Otero County Processing Center in Chaparral, New Mexico.

5 16. Mary De ANDA-YBARRA is the director of the Regional Field Office of ICE's
6 Enforcement and Removal Operations division, which oversees operations at the detention center.
7 As such, the Director is Petitioner's immediate custodian and is responsible for Petitioner's
8 detention and removal. The person is named in their official capacity.

9 17. Respondent Kristi NOEM is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.
10 She is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the INA, and oversees ICE, which
11 is responsible for Petitioner's detention. Ms. Noem has ultimate custodial authority over Petitioner
12 and is sued in her official capacity.

13 18. Respondent Pamela BONDI is the United States Attorney General. She is
14 responsible for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), which is the component of
15 the U.S. Department of Justice that is responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA in
16 removal proceedings, including for custody redetermination in bond hearings.

17 19. Respondent WARDEN is an unknow individual and the Warden of Otero County
18 Processing Center, where Petitioner is detained. That person has immediate physical custody of
19 Petitioner. That person is sued in their official capacity.

20 20. Respondent Todd LYONS is the Acting Director of ICE and is named in his
21 official capacity. Among other things, ICE is responsible for the administration and enforcement
22 of the immigration laws, including the removal of noncitizens. In his official capacity as head of
23 ICE, he is the legal custodian of Petitioner.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Immigration and Nationality Act and Federal Regulations

21. The INA prescribes three basic forms of detention for the vast majority of noncitizens who are alleged or found to be removable from the United States.

22. First, 8 U.S.C. § 1226 authorizes the detention of noncitizens in standard removal proceedings before an IJ. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. Individuals in § 1226(a) detention are generally entitled to a bond hearing at the outset of their detention, *see* 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.19(a), 1236.1(d), while noncitizens who have engaged in specified criminal and terrorist activity are subject to mandatory detention, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c).

23. Second, the INA provides for mandatory detention of noncitizens subject to expedited removal under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1) and for other noncitizens seeking admission under § 1225(b)(2).

24. Last, the INA also provides for detention of noncitizens who have been ordered removed, including individuals in withholding-only proceedings, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)–(b).

25. This case concerns the detention provisions at §§ 1226(a) and 1225(b)(2).

26. The detention provisions at § 1226(a) and § 1225(b)(2) were enacted as part of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104–208, Div. C, §§ 302–03, 110 Stat. 3009–546, 3009–582 to 3009–583, 3009–585. Section 1225(b)(2)(A) states that if an “examining immigration officer determines that an alien seeking admission is not clearly and beyond a doubt entitled to be admitted, the alien shall be detained for [removal proceedings].” The IIRIRA also defined “admission” in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(13)(A) as the “lawful entry of the alien into the United States after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer.” § 301, 110 Stat. 3009–575.

1 27. Consistent with these statutory provisions, federal regulations preclude
2 immigration judges from granting bond to “arriving aliens,” 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(h)(1)(B)(ii), a
3 phrase defined in relevant part as “applicant[s] for admission coming or attempting to come into
4 the United States at a port-of-entry.” 8 C.F.R. § 1001.1(q). The decision to preclude immigration
5 judges from granting bond to arriving aliens—as distinct from all noncitizens who entered without
6 admission—was the product of notice and comment rulemaking in early 1997 following the
7 enactment of the IIRIRA.

8 28. As the regulations were initially proposed, all “[i]nadmissible aliens in removal
9 proceedings” would have been ineligible for bond. *Inspection and Expedited Removal of Aliens;*
10 *Detention and Removal of Aliens; Conduct of Removal*, 62 Fed. Reg. 444, 483 (Jan. 3, 1997). After
11 receiving comments, however, the Attorney General deleted the proposed provision and replaced
12 it with one that would apply only to “[a]rriving aliens.”¹ *Inspection and Expedited Removal of*
13 *Aliens; Detention and Removal of Aliens; Conduct of Removal Proceedings; Asylum Procedures*,
14 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10361 (March 6, 1997). As the Attorney General explained, “[t]he effect of
15 this change [was] that inadmissible aliens, except for arriving aliens, have available to them bond
16 redetermination hearings before an immigration judge, while arriving aliens do not.” *Id.* at 10323.
17 In other words, “aliens who are present without having been admitted or paroled (formerly referred
18 to as aliens who entered without inspection) will be eligible for bond and bond redetermination.”
19 *Id.*

20 29. Thus, in the decades that followed, most people who entered without inspection
21 and were placed in standard removal proceedings received bond hearings, unless their criminal
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23 ¹ This provision was originally promulgated as 8 C.F.R. § 236.1(c)(5)(i) and was later transferred
24 to 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19(h)(2)(i)(B).

1 history rendered them ineligible. That practice was consistent with many more decades of prior
2 practice in which noncitizens who were not deemed “arriving” were entitled to a custody hearing
3 before an IJ or other hearing officer. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a) (1994); H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, pt. 1,
4 at 229 (1996) (noting that § 1226(a) simply “restates” the detention authority previously found at
5 § 1252(a)).

6 30. Section 1226 was most recently amended earlier this year by the Laken Riley Act,
7 Pub. L. No. 119-1, 139 Stat. 3 (2025). Congress provided that noncitizens who entered the country
8 without being admitted are subject to mandatory detention if they were thereafter charged with,
9 arrested for, convicted of, or admitted committing various offenses. § 1226(c)(1)(E). As may be
10 apparent, this provision would be superfluous if all noncitizens who were present without
11 admission were already subject to mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A).

12 Exhaustion and Futility

13 31. Exhaustion of administrative remedies is required “[w]here Congress specifically
14 mandates.” *McCarthy v. Madigan*, 503 U.S. 140, 144 (1992). But where, as here “Congress has
15 not clearly required exhaustion, sound judicial discretion governs.” *Id.* (citations omitted). Under
16 these principles, prudential exhaustion is not required where a request for relief before the agency
17 would be futile because the agency has “predetermined the issue before it.” *Id.* at 148. Further, “a
18 court may waive the prudential exhaustion requirement if ‘administrative remedies are inadequate
19 or not efficacious, pursuit of administrative remedies would be a futile gesture, irreparable injury
20 will result, or the administrative proceedings would be void.’” *Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d
21 976, 988 (9th Cir. 2017) (quoting *Laing v. Ashcroft*, 370 F.3d 994, 1000 (9th Cir. 2004)).

22 32. The BIA’s decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216, renders
23 prudential exhaustion futile in bond cases involving individuals who entered the United States
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1 without inspection. *Zaragoza Mosqueda, et al. v. Noem*, 2025 WL 2591530, at *7 (C.D. Cal. Sept.
 2 8, 2025). Although Petitioner has just received a denial of his bond request by an immigration
 3 judge, *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* “predetermine[s]” the outcome of that appeal. *McCarthy*, 503
 4 U.S. at 148. Prudential exhaustion is therefore unnecessary, and the Court should take jurisdiction
 5 over Petitioner’s case.

6 33. A motion to reconsider has been filed in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*. The motion
 7 challenges the Board’s statutory analysis and asks it to withdraw its decision because (a) the
 8 underlying removal proceedings had concluded by the time the Board issued its decision, making
 9 the case moot, and (b) the decision conflicts with longstanding regulations issued by the Attorney
 10 General.²

11 **Federal Court Decisions Regarding Detention of** 12 **Individuals Who Are Present Without Admission**

13 34. To date, federal district judges have issued over 350 decisions either outright
 14 rejecting the government’s novel interpretation of § 1225(b)(2)(A),ⁱ or finding that noncitizens
 15 challenging the government’s interpretation were substantially likely to prevail on the merits.ⁱⁱ
 16 These judges have not been unsparing in their criticism of the government’s newfound position.
 17 One called it a “nonstarter.” *Doe v. Moniz*, No. 25-12094, 2025 WL 2576819 at *10 (D. Mass.
 18 Sept. 5, 2025). Another called it “willfully blind.” *Leal-Hernandez v. Noem*, No. 25-2428, 2025
 19 WL 2430025 at *25 (D. Md. Aug. 24, 2025). Another called it “a policy argument, projected onto
 20 Congress.” *Romero v. Hyde*, No. 25-11631, __ F. Supp. 3d __, 2025 WL 2403827 at *28 (D. Mass.
 21 Aug. 19, 2025). Indeed, in the District of New Mexico alone, various judges, in at least nine
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23 ² The Board’s Decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* is also not entitled to deference because it
 24 contravenes the statutory language and legislative history, and it deviates from longstanding
 agency practice and regulations.

1 separate decisions, have unanimously rejected the government's interpretation. *See, e.g.,*
2 *Hernandez-Parrilla v. Anda-Ybarra*, 2025 WL 362769 (D.N.M. Dec. 15, 2025) (Strickland, J.);
3 *Cortez- Gonzalez v. Noem*, 2025 WL 3485771 (D.N.M. Dec. 4, 2025) (Garcia, J.).

4 35. The district court in *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, et al, 5:25-cv-01873 (C.D.
5 Cal. Nov. 20, 2025) (Sykes, J.), has granted nationwide class certification and summary judgment
6 on this issue. Specifically, the court has declared illegal the Immigration and Customs Enforcement
7 policy, and the Board of Immigration Appeals decision in *Matter of Yajure-Hurtado*, 29 I. & N.
8 Dec. 216 (BIA 2025), requiring detention without bond of all persons who entered without
9 inspection or admission. Other courts have followed suit. *See Guerrero Orellano v. Moniz, et al.*,
10 1:25-cv-12664 (D. Mass. Dec. 19, 2025) (Saris, J.); *Ramirez Ovando, et al., v. Noem, et al.*, 1:25-
11 cv-03183 (D. Colo. Nov. 25, 2025) (Jackson, J.). Thus, class members nationwide now have a
12 binding judgment declaring they are detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), not § 1225(b)(2)(A), and
13 are entitled to consideration for release on bond.³

14 36. The court there expressly extended the declaratory relief to the Bond Eligible Class,
15 which is nationwide and encompasses:

16 All noncitizens in the United States without lawful status who (1) have entered or
17 will enter the United States without inspection; (2) were not or will not be
18 apprehended upon arrival; and (3) are not or will not be subject to detention under
19 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c), § 1225(b)(1), or § 1231 at the time the Department of Homeland
20 Security makes an initial custody determination.

21 37. Petitioner in this case is thus a class member and covered by the declaratory relief
22 granted in *Maldonado Bautista*.

23 ³ Petitioner notes that on Dec. 18, 2025, the Court subsequently ordered final judgment in favor
24 of Petitioners and the Bond Eligible Class. *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, et al, 5:25-cv-
01873 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 18, 2025) (Sykes, J.).

1 38. It is not difficult to understand why federal district courts have rejected the
2 government’s novel interpretation, as the plain text of the statutory provisions demonstrates that
3 § 1226(a), not § 1225(b), applies to people like Petitioner.

4 39. By its terms, § 1225(b)(2)(A) only applies to noncitizens who are “seeking
5 admission,” and Congress defined “admission” as the “lawful entry of the alien into the United
6 States after inspection and authorization by an immigration officer.” § 1101(a)(13)(A).
7 Accordingly, “[c]onstruing section 1225(b)(2) to apply to noncitizens already residing in the
8 country would read the word ‘entry’ out of the definitions of ‘admitted’ and ‘admission.’” *Chafila*
9 *v. Scott*, No. 25-437, 2025 LX 422663 (D. Maine Sept. 21, 2025).

10 40. Accordingly, § 1225(b) applies to people arriving at U.S. ports of entry. The
11 statute’s entire framework is premised on inspections at the border of people who are “seeking
12 admission” to the United States, and individuals who entered without inspection and have never
13 affirmatively applied for admission or parole do not fit within that category. 8 U.S.C. §
14 1225(b)(2)(A); *see also Pizarro Reyes v. Raycraft*, 2025 WL 2609425 (E.D. Mich. Sept. 9, 2025)
15 (specifically rejecting the Board’s analysis of the statute in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* and
16 concluding that it is “difficult to square a noncitizen’s continued presence with “seeking admission”
17 when that noncitizen never attempted to obtain lawful status”); *Vasquez-Garcia et al. v. Noem*,
18 2025 WL 2549431 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 3, 2025) (rejecting DHS’ contention that an individual who
19 entered the United States without inspection “is automatically understood to be ‘seeking admission’
20 within the meaning of § 1225(b)(2)(A), without need[ing] to affirmatively apply for admission or
21 parole”); *Arrazola Gonzalez v. Noem*, 2025 WL 2379285 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 15, 2025) (concluding
22 that habeas petitioner showed likelihood of success on the merits of argument that “[t]o ignore the
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1 ‘seeking admission’ language [in 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) . . . would render the language
2 purposeless and violate a key rule of statutory construction”).

3 41. Throughout its text, 8 U.S.C. § 1225 defines its scope by reference to
4 “inspections”—a term not defined in the INA but which typically connotes an examination upon
5 or soon after physical entry. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1225 (titled “Inspection by immigration officers;
6 expedited removal of inadmissible arriving [noncitizens]; referral for hearing”); §§ 1225(b)(1)–(2)
7 (referring to “inspections” in their titles); § 1225(d)(1) (authorizing immigration officials to search
8 certain conveyances to conduct “inspections” where noncitizens “are being brought into the United
9 States”). Many statutory provisions, various regulations and agency precedent discuss “inspection”
10 in the context of admission processes at ports of entry, further supporting the conclusion that §
11 1225(b) has a limited temporal and geographic scope. *See, e.g.*, 8 U.S.C. §§ 1187(h)(2)(B)(i),
12 1225A; 8 U.S.C. § 1752a; 8 C.F.R. § 235.1; *Matter of Quilantan*, 25 I&N Dec. 285 (BIA 2010)).

13 42. Indeed, the Supreme Court has explained that this mandatory detention scheme
14 applies to noncitizens who are “arriving in the United States,” *Clark v. Martinez*, 543 U.S. 371
15 (2005), “at the Nation’s borders and ports of entry, where the Government must determine whether
16 a[] [noncitizen] seeking to enter the country is admissible.” *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281,
17 287 (2018).

18 43. As importantly, § 1226(c) subjects numerous categories of inadmissible noncitizens
19 to mandatory detention. If “the [BIA was] correct that § 1225(b)’s mandatory detention provisions
20 apply to all persons who have not been admitted into the United States, that would render
21 superfluous those provisions of § 1226 that apply to certain categories of inadmissible aliens, such
22 as § 1226(c)(1)(A), (D), and (E).” *Hasan v. Crawford*, __ F. Supp. 3d __, 2025 WL 268225 at *22
23 (E.D. Va. Sept. 19, 2025) (Brinkema, J.). Indeed, the BIA’s interpretation would “render the Laken
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1 Riley Act a meaningless amendment, since it would have prescribed mandatory detention for
2 noncitizens already subject to it.” *Aceros v. Kaiser*, 2025 WL 2637503 at *28 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 12,
3 2025).

4 44. Accordingly, the mandatory detention provision of § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to
5 people like Petitioner, who have already entered and were residing in the United States at the time
6 they were apprehended.

7 **FACTS**

8 45. Petitioner is a 29-year-old resident of California. He is originally from India.

9 46. While in India, Petitioner

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13 47. Petitioner thus fled India, and entered the United States via the southern border
14 without being inspected by an immigration officer.

15 48. Petitioner was detained by ICE later that year. ICE has charged Petitioner with
16 removability under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) as an alien in the United States without being
17 admitted or paroled.

18 49. ICE then released Petitioner on bond, he received work authorization, and he later
19 filed an application for asylum and related remedies.

20 50. On February 16, 2023, after a hearing, an immigration judge denied Petitioner’s
21 asylum application. Petitioner timely appealed that decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals
22 and that appeal is still pending.

1 51. Petitioner has worked as a truck driver since moving to the United States. On
2 September 3, 2025, while driving his truck from Texas to California, he was stopped and detained
3 by ICE. Petitioner has remained detained since that day, for over 140 days.

4 52. Petitioner's health has declined while in detention, as he has been sick with a cough
5 and fever.

6 53. Petitioner is currently detained at the Otero Processing Center in Chaparral, New
7 Mexico. Petitioner has no criminal history.

8 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

9 **COUNT I**

10 **Violation of the INA**

11 54. Petitioner incorporates by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the preceding
12 paragraphs.

13 55. The mandatory detention provision at 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to
14 all noncitizens residing in the United States who entered the country without being admitted. By
15 its terms, § 1225(b)(2)(A) only applies to noncitizens who are "seeking admission." The term
16 "admission" is defined to require a "lawful entry" following "inspection and authorization by an
17 immigration officer." § 1101(a)(13)(A). Accordingly, § 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to
18 noncitizens like Petitioner who evade inspection and are apprehended outside a port of entry. Such
19 noncitizens are instead detained under § 1226 while in removal proceedings, and are thus eligible
20 for release on bond under § 1226(a) unless they are subject to mandatory detention under § 1226(c).

21 56. The application of § 1225(b)(2)(A) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued
22 detention without a bond hearing and violates the INA.

23 **COUNT II**

Violation of Federal Regulations

57. Petitioner incorporates by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

58. Under 8 C.F.R. § 1236.1(d)(1), immigration judges may grant bond to any noncitizen in removal proceedings who is not subject to a final order or to any of the exceptions in 8 C.F.R. § 1003.19. None of the exceptions in § 1003.19 preclude immigration judges from granting bond to noncitizens simply for being present without admission.

59. As relevant here, the regulations only preclude immigration judges from granting bond to noncitizens who qualify as “arriving aliens,” § 1003.19(h)(1)(B)(ii), *i.e.*, those who presented themselves for inspection at a port of entry. When these regulations were initially promulgated, the Justice Department explained that “inadmissible aliens, except for arriving aliens, have available to them bond redetermination hearings before an immigration judge.” 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10323 (March 6, 1997). The Justice Department thus made clear that individuals who had entered without inspection were eligible for consideration for bond and bond hearings before IJs under 8 U.S.C. 1226 and its implementing regulations.

60. Notwithstanding these regulations, the BIA held in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado* that all noncitizens who are present without admission are ineligible to receive a bond from immigration judges. Application of this decision to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued detention without a bond hearing in violation of §§ 1236.1 and 1003.19.

COUNT III

Violation of Due Process

61. Petitioner repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference every allegation in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

62. The government may not deprive a person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. U.S. Const. amend. V. “Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that the Clause protects.” *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690, 121 S.Ct. 2491, 150 L.Ed.2d 653 (2001).

63. Petitioner has a fundamental interest in liberty and being free from official restraint.

64. The government’s detention of Petitioner and its issuance of a precedential decision precluding his release violates his right to due process.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that this Court grant the following relief:

- a. Assume jurisdiction over this matter;
- b. Set this matter for expedited consideration;
- c. Declare that no statute or regulation prohibits an immigration judge from holding a custody redetermination hearing for Petitioner, and that Petitioner is properly detained, if at all, under 8 U.S.C. 1226(a);
- d. Issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus and conduct a bond hearing within 15 days, or order Petitioner’s release within 15 days unless Respondents provide him with a bond hearing before an immigration judge;
- e. Award Petitioner attorney’s fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act (“EAJA”), as amended, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, and on any other basis justified under law; and
- f. Grant any other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.

DATED this 29th day of January, 2026.

/s/ Jason Wisecup
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Attorney for Petitioner

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. 2242

I represent Petitioner and submit this verification on his behalf. I verify that the factual statements made in this Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on this 29th day of January, 2026, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

/s/ Jason Wisecup
 Jason Wisecup
 Attorney for Petitioner

ⁱ See, e.g., *Moreno Madrid v. Acuna*, 3:25-CV-01572 (W.D. La. Dec. 12, 2025); *Sanabria v. Rosa*, 25-4429 (D. Ariz. Dec. 11, 2025) (Tuchi, J.); *H.L.P.F. V. Wamsley*, 25-1899 (D. Or. Dec. 10, 2025) (Aiken, J.); *Millan-Osuna v. Cantu*, 25-4019 (D. Ariz. Nov. 26, 2025) (Liburdi, J.); *Soto v. Noem*, 25-4178 (D. Ariz. Nov. 26, 2025) (Liburdi, J.); *Vargas-Murillo v. Bondi*, 25-03396 (D. Ariz. Nov. 25, 2025) (Liburdi, J.); *Perez Camacho v. Holinshead*, 25-593 (D. Id. Nov. 19, 2025) (Winmill, J.); *Macilla Ruiz v. Larose*, No. 25-379 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 18, 2025) (Bashant, J.); *Maravilla Amaya v. Noem*, 25-2892 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2025) (Moskowitz, J.); *Hernandez-Luna v. Noem*, 25-1818 (D. Nev. Nov. 6, 2025) (Navarro, J.); *Castellanos Lopez v. Warden*, No. 25-2527 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 27, 2025) (Huie, J.); *Esquivel-Ipina v. Larose*, No. 25-2672 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 24, 2025) (Sammartino, J.); *Benitez-Cornejo v. Cantu*, No. 25-3672 (D. Ariz. Oct. 17, 2025) (Tuchi, J.); *Torres v. Wamsley*, 2025 WL 2855379 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 8, 2025) (Menendez, J.); *BDVS v. Forestal*, No. 25-1968 (S.D. Ind. Oct. 8, 2025) (Evans Barker, J.); *Eliseo v. Olson*, No. 25-3381 (Oct. 8, 2025) (Blackwell, J.); *Buenrostro-Mendez v. Bondi*, No. 25-3726, (S.D. Tex. Oct. 7, 2025) (Rosenthal, J.); *Echevarria v. Bondi*, No. 25-3252, 2025 LX 492534 (D. Ariz. Oct. 3, 2025) (Joun, J.); *Belsai D.S. v. Bondi*, No. 25-3682 (D. Minn. Oct. 1, 2025) (Menendez, J.); *Santiago Santiago v. Noem*, No. 25-361 (W.D. Tex. Oct. 1, 2025) (Cardone, J.); *Quispe-Ardiles v. Noem*, No. 25-1382, 2025 WL 2783799 (E.D. Va. Sept. 30, 2025) (Nachmanoff, J.); *Rodriguez Vazquez v. Bostock*, No. 25-5240, 2025 WL 2782499 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 30, 2025) (Cartwright, J.); *Da Silva v. ICE*, No. 25-284, 2025 WL 2778083 (D.N.H. Sept. 29, 2025) (McCafferty, J.); *Quispe v. Crawford*, No. 25-1471, 2025 WL 2783799 (E.D. Va. Sept. 29, 2025) (Trenga, J.); *Inlago Tocagon v. Moniz*, No. 25-12453, 2025 WL 2778023 (D. Mass. Sept. 29, 2025) (Joun, J.); *Barrios v. Shepley*, No. 25-406, 2025 WL 2772579 (D. Maine Sept. 29, 2025) (Woodcock, Jr.); *J.U. v. Maldonado*, No. 25-4836, 2025 WL 2772765 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 29, 2025) (Merchant, J.); *Savane v. Francis*, No. 25-6666, 2025 WL 2774452 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 28, 2025) (Woods, J.); *Zumba v. Bondi*, No. 25-14626, 2025 WL 2753496 (D.N.J. Sept. 26, 2025) (Hayden, J.); *Villanueva Herrera v. Tate*, No. 25-3364 (S.D. Tex. Sept. 26, 2025) (Hittner, J.); *Gamez Lira v. Noem*, No. 25-855 (D.N.M. 25-855) (Johnson, J.); *Singh*

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2 No. 25-437, 2025 LX 422663 (D. Maine Sept. 21, 2025) (Neumann, J.); *Hasan v. Crawford*, No.
3 25-1408, 2025 LX 499354 (E.D. Va. Sept. 19, 2025) (Brinkema, J.); *Barrera v. Tindall*, No. 25-
4 451, 2025 LX 435572 (W.D. Ky. Sept. 19, 2025) (Jenning, J.); *Salazar v. Dedos*, No. 25-835,
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7 (W.D. La. Sept. 11, 2025) (Doughty, J.); *Pizarro Reyes v. Raycraft*, No. 25-12546, 2025 WL
8 2609425 (E.D. Mich. Sept. 9, 2025) (White, J.); *Sampiao v. Hyde*, No. 25-11981, 2025 WL
9 2607924 (D. Mass. Sept. 9, 2025) (Kobick, J.); *Jimenez v. FCI Berlin*, No. 25-326, 2025 LX
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11 (D. Mass. Sept. 5, 2025) (Talwani, J.); *Lopez Benitez v. Francis*, No. 25-5937, 2025 WL 2267803
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13 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 29, 2025) (McMillion, J.); *Diaz v. Mattivelo*, No. 25-12226, 2025 WL 2457610
14 (D. Mass. Aug. 27, 2025) (Kobick, J.); *Jose J.O.E. v. Bondi*, No. 25-3051, 2025 WL 2466670 (D.
15 Minn. Aug. 27, 2025) (Tostrud, J.); *Leal-Hernandez v. Noem*, No. 25-2428, 2025 WL 2430025 (D.
16 Md. Aug. 24, 2025) (Rubin, J.); *Romero v. Hyde*, No. 25-11631, __ F.Supp.3d __, 2025 WL
17 2403827 (D. Mass. Aug. 19, 2025) (Murphy, J.); *Samb v. Joyce*, No. 25-6373, 2025 WL 2398831
18 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 19, 2025) (Ho, J.); *dos Santos v. Noem*, No. 25-12052, 2025 WL 2370988 (D.
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21 1869299 (D. Mass. July 7, 2025) (Kobick, J.). *But see Barrios Sandoval v. Acuna*, 2025 WL
22 3048926 (W.D. La. Oct. 31, 2025) (Joseph, J.) (denying habeas petition); *Silva Oliveira v.*
23 *Patterson*, 2025 WL 3095972 (W.D. La. Nov. 4, 2025) (Joseph, J.) (same).
24 ⁱⁱ See, e.g., *Dolmo Martinez v. Rice*, 2025 WL 3554620 (W.D. La. Dec. 11, 2025) (Edwards, J.);
Rueda Padilla v. Bowen, 25-cv-10780 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 21, 2025) (Snyder, J.); *Sandigo*
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25-9601 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 19, 2025) (Gillam, J.); *Diaz v. Albarran*, 25-cv-9601 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 18,
2025) (Corley, J.); *Estuardo Marin v. Andrews*, 25-cv-1422 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2025) (Boone, J.);
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v. Noem, No. 3:25-2734 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 23, 2025) (Park, J.); *Ventura Martinez v. Trump* (W.D. La.
Oct. 22, 2025) (Edwards, J.); *Sabi Polo v. Chestnut*, No. 25-1342 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 17, 2025)
(Thurston, J.); *Menjivar Sanchez v. Wofford*, No. 25-1187 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 17, 2025) (Oberto, J.);
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Cal. Oct. 9, 2025) (Beeler, J.) *Flores v. Noem*, No. 25-2490, 2025 LX 444718 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 29,
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(Seeborg, J.); *Lopez v. Hardin*, No. 25-830, 2025 WL 2732717 (M.D. Fla. Sept. 25, 2025) (Dudek,
J.); *Guerrero Lepe v. Andrews*, No. 1:25-cv-01163 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 23, 2025) (Sherriff, J.); *Aceros*
v. Kaiser, No. 25-06924, 2025 LX 330524 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 12, 2025) (Chen, J.); *Guzman v.*
Andrews, No. 25-01015, 2025 LX 354551 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 9, 2025) (Sherriff, J.); *Mosqueda v.*
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No. 25-6921, 2025 LX 320701 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 3, 2025) (Beeler, J.); *Garcia v. Noem*, No. 25-
2180, 2025 WL 2549431 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 3, 2025) (Sabraw, J.); *Garcia v. Kaiser*, No. 25-06916,
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5 3142, 2025 WL 2374411 (D. Minn. Aug. 15, 2025) (Nelson, J.); *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*,
6 No. 25-01873, 2025 LX 341363 (C.D. Cal. July 28, 2025); *Vazquez v. Bostock*, No. 25-05240, 779
7 F. Supp. 3d 1239 (W.D. Wash. April 24, 2025) (Cartwright, J.). *But see Sixtos Chavez v. Noem*,
8 No. 25-2325 (S.D. Cal. Sep. 24, 2025) (Bencivengo, J.) (denying temporary restraining order);
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